



Gilman2011: Leibson Introduction of Wayne Pratt

REMARKS OF MICHAEL C. LEIBSON,
INTRODUCING GILMAN AWARD WINNER
WAYNE PRATT
APRIL 21, 2011

MR. GOVERNOR, MEMBERS OF THE BENCH AND BAR AND THE FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF WAYNE PRATT:

THE LEONARD GILMAN AWARD TO AN OUTSTANDING PRACTITIONER OF CRIMINAL LAW WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1985 TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF THE MAN WHO SERVED AS UNITED STATES ATTORNEY IN THIS DISTRICT FROM 1981 UNTIL 1985. THIS IS THE 27TH TIME SINCE 1985 THAT THIS AWARD HAS BEEN PRESENTED, WHICH MEANS THAT IT NOW OVER A QUARTER OF A CENTURY SINCE LEN GILMAN'S DEATH. BECAUSE OF THE PASSAGE OF THIS MUCH TIME, I MUST ASSUME THAT WELL OVER HALF OF THE PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE TODAY DID NOT PERSONALLY KNOW LEN. AS A RESULT, FOR MANY OF YOU TODAY AND AN INCREASING NUMBER IN THE FUTURE, THIS IS JUST ANOTHER AWARD NAMED FOR SOMEONE WHO DIED TOO SOON.

BUT THOSE OF US WHO HAVE RECEIVED THIS AWARD AND WHO KNEW LEN GILMAN IN LIFE WOULD PREFER THAT THERE HAD NEVER BEEN THE NECESSITY TO CREATE A GILMAN AWARD - THAT LEN COULD STILL BE HERE AMONG US IN LIFE. BUT THAT CANNOT BE, SO WE PRESENT THIS AWARD AS OUR WAY TO KEEP THE MEMORY OF LEN ALIVE A LITTLE



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LONGER.

LEN IS REMEMBERED BY THOSE WHO KNEW HIM AS A MAN WHO SPENT HIS ENTIRE PROFESSIONAL LIFE IN PUBLIC SERVICE AS A PROSECUTOR YET NEVER FORGOT THAT EVERY CASE INVOLVED UNIQUE HUMAN BEINGS AND THAT COMPASSION WAS NOT WEAKNESS. THIS AWARD IS GIVEN ANNUALLY TO A PERSON WHO EMULATES LEN'S COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE, PROFESSIONALISM AND PUBLIC SERVICE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

WHICH BRINGS ME TO THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT, WAYNE PRATT. WAYNE IS ONE OF THE STEADILY DIMINISHING NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS OFFICE WHO WORKED FOR LEN GILMAN. IN FACT, HE WAS HIRED BY LEN IN 1983. IF LEN WERE HERE I AM SURE HE WOULD SAY THAT THIS WAS A HIRE HE WAS PROUD OF BECAUSE WAYNE SO CLEARLY REPRESENTS WHAT LENNY WAS ALL ABOUT.

YOU HAVE IN THE PROGRAM A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF WAYNE - IT'S A GOOD BIOGRAPHY - ONE THAT ANY OF US WOULD BE PLEASED TO HAVE - BUT EVEN SO IT TELLS YOU NOTHING REALLY IMPORTANT ABOUT WAYNE.

IT DOESN'T TELL YOU THAT ABOUT WAYNE'S EXCEPTIONAL ABILITY TO ANALYZE LEGAL ISSUES AND TO PRESENT THAT ANALYSIS IN CLEAR AND PERSUASIVE LANGUAGE. IT DOESN'T TELL YOU THAT HE, LIKE SO FEW OTHERS, COMBINES THESE RESEARCH AND WRITING SKILLS WITH THE



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SKILLS OF A POLISHED AND EFFECTIVE TRIAL LAWYER. IT REALLY DOESN'T TELL YOU THAT HE IS DECISIVE, OBJECTIVE. THAT HE TREATS OTHERS AS HE WOULD WANT TO BE TREATED, AN ATTRIBUTE OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE IN THIS HOLY WEEK. HIS BIOGRAPHY DOESN'T TELL YOU OF THE YEARS HE HAS SPENT MENTORING LAW STUDENTS THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY INNS OF COURT PROGRAM. HIS BIOGRAPHY CERTAINLY DOESN'T TELL YOU THAT JUST THIS LAST TUESDAY WAYNE WAS INVOLVED IN A PROGRAM DEALING WITH ETHICS AT THE INNS OF COURT AND MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT HE BELIEVES THAT THE LAWYER'S CODE OF ETHICS IS NOT A CEILING BUT A FLOOR AND THAT CONDUCT HAS TO BE MORE THAN ETHICAL, IT HAS TO BE RIGHT. AND FINALLY, HIS BIOGRAPHY DOESN'T TELL YOU HOW MUCH HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS OFFICE AND THE FEDERAL CRIMINAL DEFENSE BAR RESPECT HIM NOR DOES IT TELL YOU WHAT A TRULY DECENT HUMAN BEING HE IS.

I HAVE TO TELL YOU THESE THINGS BECAUSE HE WON'T.

NOW, HE'S NOT PERFECT - HE IS AN AVID SPARTAN WHEN IT COMES TO SPORTS - A HABIT WHICH HE MAY YET OUTGROW.

SOME YEARS AGO MIKE MEYER AND DANA CARVEY CREATED WHAT THEY BELIEVED TO BE A FICTIONAL PLACE CALLED WAYNE'S WORLD. THERE IS NO WAY THEY COULD HAVE KNOWN THAT WAYNE'S WORLD IS, IN



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FACT, A VERY REAL PLACE. IT IS NOT HOWEVER IN A BASEMENT IN AURORA ILLINOIS BUT RATHER ON THE 24TH FLOOR OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS OFFICE. IT IS A PLACE WHERE THE CATCH PHRASES ARE NOT THE TYPE FOUND ON SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE. RATHER THE KEY WORDS IN THIS REAL WAYNE'S WORLD ARE HONESTY, INTEGRITY, COMPASSION, COMPETENCE, INTELLIGENCE AND HUMILITY.

SO IT IS MY HONOR TO PRESENT THIS AWARD TO MY COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND WAYNE PRATT - A MAN WHO BY HIS EVERY ACTION SUSTAINS THE MEMORY AND VALUES OF LEN GILMAN. LADIES AND GENTLEMAN, WAYNE PRATT.